Defending Your Department

Civics Performance Task

You are the director of one of the departments or agencies of the Executive Branch of the United States. The President has decided that in order to balance the federal budget, at least one of the departments must be eliminated. As the director, you must make a presentation to a Congressional committee appointed by the President to determine which department(s) will be cut. Your presentation must answer the following questions:

* When, why, and by whom was your department established?
* How many people work in your department? What is your department’s budget?
* What is the purpose of your department?
* What laws does your department enforce and how?
* What is an important event your department has been involved with and what was your department’s role in the event (this must be supported by a summary of a news article; a copy of the article must be attached to the presentation)?
* What would the United States be like without your department? How will the United States be affected by your department’s elimination?
* Why should your department be saved?

Your presentation may be in one of the following formats:

* A photo story
* A PowerPoint
* An essay (minimum 2 typed, double-spaced pages, 12 pt. Times New Roman)
* A video or audio presentation

Once all presentations have been considered, the Congressional committee (i.e., the class) will vote on which department to cut.

Students may work individually or in pairs.